

10

HIGHWAY 404 MID-BLOCK ROAD CROSSING BETWEEN HIGHWAY 7 AND 16TH AVENUE CONSULTANT ASSIGNMENT AWARD

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, February 19, 2004, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The proposal of URS Canada Inc. in the amount of \$142,337.82 (includes G.S.T.) be accepted for the conduct of the Transportation and Class Environmental Assessment Study for the Highway 404 Mid-Block Road Crossing between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate copies of this report to the Ministry of Transportation and the Clerks of the Town of Markham and Town of Richmond Hill.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request authorization to award the consultant assignment for the Transportation and Class EA Study for the Hwy 404 Mid-Block Road Crossing between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue. The study is proposed to be undertaken jointly and cost shared equally between York Region, the Town of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 General

The lands surrounding the 400 series highways are generally planned as major employment areas and have a great deal of local interaction with the highways and with other commercial enterprises in the area. There are also plans to develop higher densities in many of these areas to support the Regional Centres and Corridors strategies and encourage more transit use. These higher levels of overall travel demand – both car and transit, will require a finer grid of roads.

Currently, the Regional arterial roads in the vicinity of the 400 series highways are experiencing considerable traffic congestion. Notable is the East Beaver Creek Business Area and Allstate Business Park between Highway 7 and Sixteenth Avenue near Highway 404.

Previous studies undertaken by the Town of Richmond Hill and the Town of Markham have concluded that a mid-block road crossing of Highway 404 between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue can provide opportunities to improve traffic operations in the area.

3.2 Study History

At its meeting on May 22, 2003, Regional Council adopted recommendations contained in Report No. 5 of the Transportation and Works Committee including the follows:

“ Regional staff be authorized to undertake an Environmental Assessment (EA) study for the mid-block crossing of Highway 404 between Highway 7 and Sixteenth Avenue, subject to one third funding from each of the Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham. ”

The Region received correspondence from the Town of Richmond Hill (Report SRE.03.012) dated February 3, 2003, requesting that the Region amend the Regional Official Plan and Development Charges bylaw to include three mid-block crossings of Highway 404 and to undertake an EA for a Highway 404 overpass between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue in conjunction with both the Towns of Richmond Hill and Markham.

This matter was supported by the Town of Markham (Clause 3, Report No. 17, March 18, 2003) which reiterated the need for the mid-block crossings of Highway 404 and authorized the Town's participation in an EA for the Highway 404 crossing located between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue.

4. ANALYSIS

The following five teams submitted proposals to conduct the Transportation and Class EA Study:

1. URS Canada Inc.
2. McCormick Rankin Corporation
3. Earth Tech Canada Inc.
4. iTRANS Consulting Inc.
5. R.V. Anderson Associates Limited

The proposals were evaluated based on a two-stage system, which involved an assessment of the technical proposal, followed by an assessment of the fee, which was submitted in a separate envelope. Specifically, the technical proposals were assessed based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and Experience.
2. Quality of Submission.
3. Project Deliverables.
4. Value-added Services.

The Evaluation Team consisted of staff from York Region, Town of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill. Following the technical evaluation, the fee envelopes for the

proposals were opened. The scoring method for the fees was based on assigning the highest score to the consultant with the lowest fee and proportionately lower scores for the other consultants. The results of the technical and fee evaluations are provided in Table 1.

Table 1
Evaluation Summary

Firm	Technical Score Out of 80	Upset Fee including G.S.T.	Financial Score Out of 20	Total Score Out of 100
URS Canada Inc.	59.9	\$142,337.82	17.7	77.6
McCormick Rankin Corporation	60.8	\$160,393.00	15.7	76.5
iTRANS Consulting Inc.	52.2	\$125,832.00	20.0	72.2
R.V. Anderson Associates Limited	53.1	\$135,355.00	18.6	71.7
Earth Tech Canada Inc.	55.0	\$201,837.45	12.5	67.5

The proposal of URS Canada Inc. meets all requirements, has the highest combined technical and cost score and therefore is recommended for this assignment.

This project is quite complex and includes analysis of the Transportation network in the study area as part of a full Schedule 'C' Class EA together with preliminary design of the road crossing and structure (Structural General Arrangement).

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This project is to be cost shared equally between York Region, the Town of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill.

The consulting assignment described in this report will result in total expenditures of \$142,337.82.

In addition to the above amounts, an additional amount of \$13,500.00 has been allocated for advertising a total of four mandatory notices (study commencement, two public

consultation opportunities and notice of study completion). The notices will be placed in the local newspapers in both Markham and Richmond Hill.

The Region's 1/3 share of the costs are \$47,445.94 for the consulting assignment and \$4,500 for public notices.

Funding to cover these expenditures has been included in the draft 2004 Road Budget. All costs noted above include G.S.T.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The 1/3 share of the costs required from each of the Towns of Markham and Richmond Hill are \$47,445.94 for the consulting assignment and \$4,500 for public notices. Staff at Markham and Richmond Hill have advised that adequate funds have been allocated within their 2004 budgets to cover their share of the project costs.

A mid-block crossing of Highway 404 between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue will substantially improve traffic mobility in the area and allows development opportunities to proceed. Without this additional transportation capacity, full development potential in the area may not be realized.

Once complete, the mid-block crossing is proposed to be a local road and will fall under the jurisdiction of Markham and Richmond Hill. The structure over Highway 404 will be under MTO jurisdiction in accordance with Provincial standards.

7. CONCLUSION

The Transportation and Class EA Study for the Hwy 404 Mid-Block Road Crossing between Highway 7 and 16th Avenue is proposed to be undertaken jointly and cost shared equally between York Region, the Town of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill.

The proposal of URS Canada Inc. meets all requirements, has the highest combined technical and cost score and therefore is recommended for this assignment.

The Region's 1/3 share of the costs are \$47,445.94 for the consulting assignment and \$4,500 for public notices.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.